

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1-16. (canceled).

17. (previously presented) A purified recombinant DNA of human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1), wherein the DNA comprises the sequence:

8570	8580	8590	8600	8610
GGGGGACTGG	AAGGGCTAAT	TCACTCCCAA	CGAAGACAAG	ATATCCTTGA
8620	8630	8640	8650	8660
TCTGTGGATC	TACCACACAC	AAGGCTACTT	CCCTGATTGG	CAGAACTACA
8670	8680	8690	8700	8710
CACCAGGGCC	AGGGGTCAGA	TATCCACTGA	CCTTTGGATG	GTGCTACAAG
8720	8730	8740	8750	8760
CTAGTACCAG	TTGAGCCAGA	TAAGGTAGAA	GAGGCCAATA	AAGGAGAGAA
8770	8780	8790	8800	8810
CACCAGCTTG	TTACACCCTG	TGAGCCTGCA	TGGAATGGAT	GACCCTGAGA
8820	8830	8840	8850	8860
GAGAAGTGTT	AGAGTGGAGG	TTTGACAGCC	GCCTAGCATT	TCATCACGTG
8870	8880	8890	8900	8910
GCCCGAGAGC	TGCATCCGGA	GTACTTCAAG	AACTGCTGAC	ATCGAGCTTG
8920	8930	8940	8950	8960
CTACAAGGGA	CTTTCCGCTG	GGGACTTTCC	AGGGAGGCGT	GGCCTGGGCG
8970	8980	8990	9000	9010
GAACTGGGGA	GTGGCGAGCC	CTCAGATGCT	GATATAAGC	AGCTGCTTTT
9020	9030	9040	9050	9060
TGCCTGTACT	GGGTCTCTCT	GGTTAGACCA	GATTTGAGCC	TGGGAGCTCT
9070	9080	9090	9097	10
CTGGCTAACT	AGGGAACCCA	CTGCTTAAGC	CTCAATA	AAGCTTGCCCT

20	30	40	50	60
TGAGTGCTTC	AAGTAGTGTG	TGCCCCGTCTG	TTGTGTGACT	CTGGTAACTA
70	80	90	100	110
GAGATCCCTC	AGACCCTTTT	AGTCAGTGTG	GAAAATCTCT	AGCAGTGGCG
120	130	140	150	159
CCCGAACAGG	GACTTGAAAG	CGAAAGGGAA	ACCAGAGGAG	CTCTCTCGA

18. (previously presented) The purified recombinant DNA of claim 17, wherein said nucleic acid is labeled with a label selected from the group consisting of a radioisotope, an enzyme, a fluorescent label, and a chromophore label.

19. (previously presented) A method of using the purified recombinant DNA of claim 17 for detecting the presence of HIV-1 RNA comprising:

(a) providing a cell-free supernatant of a biological fluid comprising cells infected with HIV-1;

(b) disrupting HIV-1 virions in the cell-free supernatant to release HIV-1 RNA; and

(c) detecting the presence of HIV-1 RNA by contacting the HIV-1 RNA with the purified recombinant DNA of claim 17 and detecting hybridization between the HIV-1 RNA and the purified recombinant DNA.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the biological fluid is blood.

21. (previously presented) A method of using the purified recombinant DNA of claim 18 for detecting the presence of HIV-1 RNA comprising:

(a) providing a cell-free supernatant of a biological fluid comprising cells infected with HIV-1;

(b) disrupting HIV-1 virions in the cell-free supernatant to release HIV-1 RNA; and

(c) detecting the presence of HIV-1 RNA by contacting the HIV-1 RNA with the purified recombinant DNA of claim 18 and detecting hybridization between the HIV-1 RNA and the purified recombinant DNA.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the biological fluid is blood.

23-24. (canceled).

25. (previously presented) A method for detecting the presence of HIV-1 RNA comprising:

(a) providing a cell-free supernatant of a biological fluid comprising cells infected with HIV-1;

(b) disrupting HIV-1 virions in the cell-free supernatant to release HIV-1 RNA;  
and

(c) detecting the presence of HIV-1 RNA.

26. (canceled).

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the presence of HIV-1 RNA is detected by contacting the HIV-1 RNA with the DNA of claim 17 and detecting hybridization between the HIV-1 RNA and the purified recombinant DNA.

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the presence of HIV-1 RNA is detected by contacting the HIV-1 RNA with the DNA of claim 18 and detecting hybridization between the HIV-1 RNA and the purified recombinant DNA.

29. (new) A method for preparing HIV-1 RNA for detecting the presence of HIV-1 RNA comprising:

(a) providing a cell-free supernatant of a biological fluid comprising cells infected with HIV-1;

(b) disrupting HIV-1 virions in the cell-free supernatant to release HIV-1 RNA.

30. (new) The method of claim 29, further comprising detecting the presence of HIV-1 RNA by contacting the HIV-1 RNA with the DNA of claim 17 and detecting hybridization between the HIV-1 RNA and the purified recombinant DNA.

31. (new) The method of claim 29, further comprising detecting the presence of HIV-1 RNA by contacting the HIV-1 RNA with the DNA of claim 18 and detecting hybridization between the HIV-1 RNA and the purified recombinant DNA.

32. (new) A method for preparing HIV-1 RNA for detecting the presence of HIV-1 RNA comprising:

(a) providing a cell-free supernatant of a biological fluid comprising cells infected with HIV-1;

(b) isolating HIV-1 virions from the cell-free supernatant; and

(c) disrupting the virions to release HIV-1 RNA.

33. (new) The method of claim 32, further comprising detecting the presence of HIV-1 RNA by contacting the HIV-1 RNA with the DNA of claim 17 and detecting hybridization between the HIV-1 RNA and the purified recombinant DNA.

34. (new) The method of claim 32, further comprising detecting the presence of HIV-1 RNA by contacting the HIV-1 RNA with the DNA of claim 18 and detecting hybridization between the HIV-1 RNA and the purified recombinant DNA.

35. (new) A purified fragment of the recombinant DNA of claim 17, wherein said fragment comprises the sequence: CTCAATAAAGCTTGCCTTG.

36. (new) The purified fragment of claim 35, wherein said nucleic acid is labeled with a label selected from the group consisting of a radioisotope, an enzyme, a fluorescent label, and a chromophore label.

37. (new) A method of using the purified fragment of claim 35 for detecting the presence of HIV-1 RNA comprising:

(a) providing a cell-free supernatant of a biological fluid comprising cells infected with HIV-1;

(b) disrupting HIV-1 virions in the cell-free supernatant to release HIV-1 RNA; and

(c) detecting the presence of HIV-1 RNA by contacting the HIV-1 RNA with the purified fragment of claim 35 and detecting hybridization between the HIV-1 RNA and the purified fragment.

38. (new) The method of claim 37, wherein the biological fluid is blood.

39. (new) A method of using the purified fragment of claim 36 for detecting the presence of HIV-1 RNA comprising:

(a) providing a cell-free supernatant of a biological fluid comprising cells infected with HIV-1;

(b) disrupting HIV-1 virions in the cell-free supernatant to release HIV-1 RNA; and

(c) detecting the presence of HIV-1 RNA by contacting the HIV-1 RNA with the purified fragment of claim 36 and detecting hybridization between the HIV-1 RNA and the purified fragment.

40. (new) The method of claim 39, wherein the biological fluid is blood.